

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known	
Sheet		1	of		1
		Application Number			
		Filing Date			
		First Named Inventor		Murotani, Akira	
		Group Art Unit			
		Examiner Name			
		Attorney Docket Number		16869S-032010US	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA					
	AB					
	AC					
	AD					
	AE					
	AF					
	AG					
	AH					
	AI					
	AJ					
	AK					
	AL					
	AM					
	AN					
	AO					
	AP					
	AQ					
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
BAA	AU	JP	10-333839		Hitachi, Ltd.	12-18-1998		
BAQ	AV	EP	0881560A2		Hitachi, Ltd.	12-02-1998	Please note that this EP appln. (In English) corresponds to the JP appln. above, which has therefore not been translated.	yes
	AW							
	AX							
	AY							

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	1/7/2005
--------------------	--	-----------------	----------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 18 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

PA 3172404 v1